

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

INT-08 SCEM-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 ACDA-19

IO-14 DRC-01 /233 W

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O P 311410Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0698

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, LY, GW

SUBJECT: LARG THREATENS OIL EMBARGO AGAINST FRG

SUMMARY: OCT 30 MFA U/S WARNED GERMAN CHARGE
THAT UNLESS FRG RADICALLY ALTERED
ITS ME POLICY, WITHIN A WEEK LARG WOULD TAKE "APPROPRIATE
MEASURES" RE OIL EXPORTS TO GERMANY. THIS THREAT IS
TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, AS LARG FOLLOWED THROUGH ON
SIMILAR DEMARCHE TO DUTCH CHARGE LAST WEEK, AND FRG IMPORTS
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A QUARTER OF ITS OIL FROM LIBYA. GERMAN CHARGE

DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH EC COLLEAGUES HERE TODAY AND THEY ARE REPORTEDLY RECOMMENDING FULL DISCUSSION AT EC HQS BRUSSELS. SEEMS TO US TIME HAS COME FOR NOT ONLY EC SOLIDARITY ON SUCH THREATS BUT RENEWED ATTEMPT APPLY OECD BRAKES TO LARG BLACKMAIL. END SUMMARY.

1. GERMAN CHARGE MULLER-CHORUS GAVE ME FOLLOWING RUN-DOWN TODAY. OCT 29 HE CALLED ON MFA'S NEW DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, MUKHTAR AL-UJAYLI, AND MADE A PRESENTATION OF FRG POLICY ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. CHARGE SAID THAT THIS PRESENTATION ELICITED VERY LITTLE COMMENT AND THAT HE ASSUMED IT WAS WELL RECEIVED.

2. OCT 30, HOWEVER, CHARGE WAS CALLED DOWN BY MFA U/S NA'AS WHO IN PRESENCE OF UJAYLI MADE A DEMARCHE TO THE CHARGE IN GRIM TERMS, AS FOLLOWS: THE LARG CONSIDERED THE GERMAN STAND ON ME AS BOTH UNCLEAR AND BIASED TOWARDS ISRAEL. LARG HAD NOT NOTICED ANY DECLARATION BY FRG RECOGNIZING RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND, NOR HAD THE FRG TAKEN A CLEAR STAND ON THE NECESSITY OF AN ISRAELI RETREAT FROM ARAB TERRITORY. IN PASSING, NA'AS ALSO STATED THAT FRG WAS AMONG THE COUNTRIES THAT HELPED TO CREATE THE STATE OF ISRAEL IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY WAYS. JUST RECENTLY ISRAEL HAD BEEN SUPPLIED BY U.S. THROUGH GERMANY. FRG IS BIGGEST COUNTRY THAT HAS THUS BEEN USED BY U.S. SINCE GERMANY HAS NOT SHOWN THE NECESSARY REACTION TO THE NEW ME SITUATION, LARG "ASKS THE FRG, MAYBE FOR THE LAST TIME, TO RECTIFY ITS POSITION." LARG WILL "TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES" IF IT DOES NOT RECEIVE SATISFACTORY ANSWER WITHIN ONE WEEK. A CUT-OFF OF OIL COULD BE CONSIDERED AS ONE MEASURE. LIBYA WILL "ACT IN SUPPORT OF" OTHER ARAB OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES.

3. IN REPLY TO THIS PROTEST AND WARNING, GERMAN CHARGE EMPHASIZED FRG POSITION IN ME CONFLICT WAS NEUTRAL. HE SAID THE THREATENED EMBARGO WOULD PUT THE U.S. AND CONFIDENTIAL

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GERMANY ON THE SAME BASIS AND ASKED HOW THIS COULD BE JUSTIFIED. HE RECEIVED NO ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, BUT NA'AS REMARKED THAT HE "HOPED GERMANY COULD REGAIN ITS SOVEREIGNTY". IT SHOULD DEVELOP ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS INSTEAD OF THE U.S. GERMAN CHARGE RECEIVED IMPRESSION NA'AS WAS SIMPLY ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS (AND WE AGREE THAT IT SOUNDED LIKE THEY CAME FROM QADHAFI HIMSELF).

4. OCT 31 GERMAN CHARGE ASKED EC COMS TO MEET WITH HIM FOR A DISCUSSION OF THIS DEMARCHE AND HOW IT SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AND HANDLED. HE TOLD ME THAT ONE INTERPRETATION DISCUSSED, WHICH HE AGREED, WAS THAT THE LARG THREAT OF AN OIL EMBARGO ON GERMANY MAY HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED IN PART BY AN ATTEMPT BY QADHAFI TO TAKE THE LEAD AGAIN IN ARAB AFFAIRS AFTER HE HAD LAGGED IN A) APPLYING AN EXPORT REDUCTION, WHICH ONLY AMOUNTED TO A NOMINAL 5 PER CENT, AND B) IN EMBARGOING EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES AND THEN HOLLAND. I REMARKED THAT QADHAFI'S MOTIVATIONS WERE ALWAYS POLITICAL, PRIMARILY, AND THAT IN FACT IT WAS ALMOST CERTAIN NOW THAT HIS THREAT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT. ONLY SILVER LINING WAS THAT, BECAUSE THE POLITICAL ANGLE SO DOMINANT, THERE MAY BE PRACTICAL WAYS TO MITIGATE THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS.

5. RECEIVED IMPRESSION FROM GERMAN CHARGE THAT HIS EC COLLEAGUES AGREED THIS MATTER SHOULD BE TAKEN UP URGENTLY AT BRUSSELS AND THAT IN SOME VAGUE WAY EC SHOULD HANG TOGETHER AND SUPPORT FRG. WE COULD HARDLY AGREE MORE ON THE OBJECTIVE, AND SUGGEST THAT IT BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE THE OECD COUNTRIES. FOR THE THREAT SHOULD BE TAKEN AS REAL, VIRTUALLY INEVITABLE, AND ONCE AGAIN, AFTER HIS RECENT ABERRATIONS, QADHAFI MAY PROVE TO BE THE TREND-SETTER IN ARAB OIL POLITICS.

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